

side for horsemen, & to the Bois - Parts are laid out
park-like, with green slopes & trees, pretty pieces of water
& ornamental buildings, part as wild as a wood drive
at home, then pretty cascades, & one fine waterfall,
all artificial from the different heights of the ^{ground} water,
but all very natural & pleasing in effect - It is a drive of
some three miles the whole, & fine carriage roads -
Saturday it seems, is a favorite day to be married in
Paris, & it is customary for the bridal party to go in
carrages with their maid to a cafe & breakfast in
the Bois - We met 7 or 8 in carrages with their brides-
maids or other friends, some in process in or fact, all
in full bridal costume. It was quite a pretty sight -
We saw them making already preparations for the
great fête for the Sunday week, the "Empress" fête-day,
also the centennial birth-day of the 1st Napoleon -
The top of the Arc de l'Étoile was hung with colored
banners in the form of tri-colored banners, & an
immense industrial procession surrounded it -
Then the road sides strung with rows of white flags
"like great pearls" - Sunday I wish for a quiet day, as
indeed I did many a half day to - But Paris is so
in mind & body both - But more another mail. I
must stop now to be in time - With much love to
all, Ever affectionately I am &c.

London Aug. 21st

My dear Sue, I think that all Paris
should have gone by never any journal.
Well, perhaps it was an agreeable mistake. For
I feel on reflection as if after all, the long epistles,
week after week, might get to be tedious, & what
interests me & so I think may interest you, loses
life in its long distance & travel; & that after all
I cannot make you see with my eyes or enjoy what
I enjoy, as I would wish to do, by the time the
letter gets to you, I have changed to something else.
But I feel now as if all the more interesting part
of our journey, our war, certainly all that is most
new, & there will be comparatively little to write for
the next weeks, unless we are home again! That
seems near, now that Dr. Gray & I are in England again.
We crossed yesterday, leaving Charles & Katherine
oddlies to make a little excursion in Brittany,
where we had all planned going together, but I was
overdone in Paris, did too much & took cold & at
last I was obliged to go home, & so had quite a sick turn last Sunday,
& had to give up the rest of Paris & etc; & Dr. Gray judged
it wiser that we should give up the travelling, &
come near at once, where we shall love my body is

get ready for the others, and I'll be quite just for
Annie. But to go back to my story, I stopped in
Paris Aug. 1st. It would be quite impossible to give
a detailed account of the first week, since we
tried to accomplish the visitings, & so have the next
for eight-eights. Charles & the girls came down
Monday, & shared with their brief stay at St. Germain. Some
Ray turned back to Switzerland from Heidelberg.
And as soon as the girls had breakfasted, I dressed,
we started to order necessaries for Saint Helene.
These women often arrive in Paris more entirely without
clothes & wear, except one very best, only useful on state
occasions! Six months steady travel & packing & unpacking
is hard on fringed shawls & coats &c. - So there came in
a succession of measurements & questionings,
and prices were often fearful & we had to look farther,
or things were too ugly & others must be made. And
then only the rare exceptions were successful, & we
would wait & the sculler would get vexed; or break-
fast was a succession of interruptions, & the Cap. a
continual levee. I confess we tried to crowd too
much into the fortnight. - But it would not do for R.
& L. to go home, & nothing for winter attire from Paris;
& none of us wanted to get home the last of November
with down at once to snow-making! - But I must say
the only things we found really cheap in Paris, when you turn up

into paper, were gloves & artificial flowers. -
We took a holiday in our shopping Saturday, &
went to the Louvre to see the pictures. Enjoyed them
exceedingly. There are some grand Titians, such
superb Rembrandts & Van Dycks, the finest I think
I have seen, (portraits all,) lovely Raphaels & such
an enchanting "conception of the Virgin" by Murillo,
the soft, sweet, girlish figure floating up, & lovely little
angels bounding her up in the clouds, such fine, baby
faces as Murillo paints! He gives innocence so com-
pletely - I found my old love as beautiful as ever, the
superb woman called "Titian's mistress," and there a
Raphael's sweet "madonna à la jardiniere" - Then the
grand marriage feast of Paul Veronese, Titian's en-
trancement of Christ, all these in one room! The Louvre
is wonderfully rich in good specimens of so many
masters of almost every school. And the galleries are
an immense walk. - We changed again in the
aft., & took a drive to the Bois de Boulogne, very pretty
& pleasant. Passing through the Champs Elysees, is
improved since we were in Paris before, with
beautiful flower beds & pretty "fontaines" beyond the
very broad sidewalks, fine houses & flocks on the
cote-d'Or, then round the magnificent Arc de Triomphe,
which looks handsomer than ever after seeing the
Roman arena through a fine road, a soft road at the